(c) to (e) No such proposal is under consideration with National Horticulture Board as the existing rate of assistance has been considered to be adequate.

Suicides in Maharashtra

502. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 140 farmers committed suicides in Maharashtra between 2002 and 2004;

(b) if so, whether Government had at that time failed in protecting the lives of the innocent farmers;

(c) if so, whether Government have taken action against officials/ concerned persons responsible for this gross irresponsible act; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

National Horticulture Mission in Orissa

503. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch National Horticulture Mission in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Mission proposes to adopt an end-to-end approach covering production, post-harvest management to marketing to ensure appropriate return to the growers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government

have launched a National Horticulture Mission for the development of horticulture in the country including Orissa.

(c) and (d) The Mission would address the development of horticulture duly ensuring end-to-end approach covering production, post-harvest management and marketing. The Mission envisages assistance for promoting production through supply of good quality planting material, coverage of new areas with improved varieties, rejuvenation of senile orchard, integrated pest management, creation of infrastructure for disease forecasting, post-harvest management and marketing.

Setting up of cold storages in Tamil Nadu

504. SHRI C. PERUMAL:Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of acute fall in prices of tomatoes and lemons in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether it is proposed to assist the State Government suitably in order to set up cold storage units on a war footing to save the produce and also the farmers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Assistance@ 25% of cost for setting up cold storage units is being provided by the National Horticulture Board under the scheme on "Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Expansion/Modernisation of Cold Storages for Horticulture Produce." Besides, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "National Horticulture Mission"(NHM) has been launched which could be availed by the State Government to construct cold storages in potential areas. Under NHM also the project is entrepreneur driven for which the assistance is limited to 25% of the cost of Rs. 2 Crore/unit.

Concern on proposed Seed Bill

505. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Research Foundation for Science,